

APPROVED-3/22/12

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, John Gibbons, Daniel Pedro, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood

Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Director of Administration, Alex Prignano, Business Manager

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Mutter convened the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Wood and Mrs. Sanzi, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular meeting 2/16/12, Special meeting 2/28/12.

B. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session 2/16/12

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve Regular meeting 2/16/12, Special meeting 2/28/12 and Executive Session 2/16/12, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #5: Superintendent's Report

Dr. Thornton noted that on May 23, 2012, Dr. Thomas Guskey would be coming to our district to give two presentations – one at 2:30 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. – on Grading Practices. There will be more information available as we get closer to the date.

Agenda Item #6: Chairperson's Report

No report at this time.

Agenda Item #7: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #8: Reports of Standing Committees

A. Payment of Bills - Mr. Wood said the Finance Sub Committee met earlier in the evening and with that he made a motion to pay invoices in the amount of \$760,864.72, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 7-0.

B. Achievement & Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said they met with the High School Guidance Department and the World Language Department on 2/28 – they are learning how the curriculum is changing. They will be doing a walk-thru of the Math Department on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:30 a.m.

C. Policy & Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that

this committee meets every other Tuesday to work on the policies and wanted to thank Mr. Mutter and Mr. Pedro for standing in for her at the last meeting because she was unable to attend.

Agenda Item #9: Old Business

A. Discussion and/or vote on advertising of School Committee Meetings – Mr. Mutter noted that on October 27, 2011 the SC agreed to advertise in the Valley Breeze for three months, but it has already been four months – so at this time he was looking for direction from the SC. Mr. Gibbons made a motion to eliminate advertising in the Valley Breeze, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, then Mrs. Beaulieu asked how much it cost to advertise for each meeting. Mr. Prignano said he did not have those figures. Mr. Mutter asked if the dollars were in this budget? Mr. Prignano said there is money for advertising, but not as much as previous years. He said a typical ad could be anywhere from \$300 to \$500, depending on size, etc. Mr. Rotella said the agenda is on the website, at the town hall, on the Secretary of State website, gets sent via email, posted at the high school, posted at the transitional building. He went on to say that the State said we could eliminate advertising so that the SC's could save money. Mr. Wood said the 2012 budget shows \$30,000 for advertising. Mrs. Teel then asked if we were collecting email addresses so that we can email specifics – Mike Chandler said yes, we can do that if we need to. Mrs. Sanzi asked Mr. Mutter if he had an estimate for each ad placed and he said that it could be \$300, but for the record it may be over \$400 per meeting. Mr. Mutter went on to say that he is uncomfortable with

not doing any advertising, but understands that it is to save dollars. The vote was taken and the motion failed, 4-3, roll call vote was as follows: Teel – yes, Beaulieu – no, Pedro – yes, Wood – no, Gibbons – yes, Sanzi – no, Mutter – no. Mr. Mutter said they would continue to advertise. Mr. Wood then made a motion to continue to advertise, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-1. Mrs. Teel voted no.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

A. Pursuant to the RIGL 42-46-5 – Exception (8) Student Disciplinary Hearings: 1) Student: N. Doe – Student Hearing Decision, 2) Student: C. Doe – Student Hearing Decision, 3) Student T. Doe – Student Hearing Decision - Student N. Doe – amend the recommendation of the Superintendent, no motion just report out, unanimous vote for record.

B. Home School Instruction Requests 2011-2012 – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve the names listed in Dr. Thornton's packet, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Teel, approved 7-0.

C. Discussion and/or vote to approve the Amended JL Fundraising Policy – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve the amended policy, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Dr. Thornton if he needed to approve the incentives and Dr. Thornton said yes he did need to approve them. Mr. Wood asked if the PTO's could get copies.

D. Discussion and/or vote to approve the Amended GCB Personnel Benefit Policy for Non-Unit Administrative and Support Personnel – Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve the amended policy, 2nd Mrs.

Beaulieu. Dr. Thornton noted that this gives everyone the opportunity to see benefits with/salary ranges, etc. on the website. It also gives information on paid holidays, vacations etc. Keeps the SC up to date on what is going on with contracts. The vote was then taken and the motion was approved 7-0.

E. Discussion and/or vote to Approve 1st Reading of Policy: LBC-RA Procedure for Loan of Textbooks to Non Public School Students – Mrs. Teel said this new policy will allow the school district to charge students when they do not return the books – right now there is currently no fee. Mr. Rotella said the policy is on the website so the SC could wave the reading, they could dispense the reading of the 1st reading. Mrs. Teel made a motion to approve the policy, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.

F. Math Intervention Program Update – Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to table this until the meeting of 3/22/12, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0.

G. Discussion and/or vote to Approve Full Day Kindergarten/Redistricting Proposal – Mr. Mutter noted that the SC has had several meetings regarding this issue and commented on the article in the Valley Breeze earlier in the day where it said that Mr. Mutter said if there wasn't funding then we wouldn't vote and with that he wanted everyone to know that Mr. Prignano, the town finance director and Mr. Mutter met the day before and they had a very favorable meeting. The Mayor has also given them his support. Mr. Mutter said they have assurances on funding but anything can happen – the FY2013 budget will have these items in it. Dr. Thornton noted that each year that the district runs a full day K, the funding

formula will go up – he wanted everyone to consider this point. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Dr. Thornton if this were to get approved tonight, what the next steps would be. Dr. Thornton said he would meet with Principals, have model bus runs, would start moving folks, job pool/fair in the Spring – teachers would know their positions in June. Mrs. Beaulieu then asked if there were any variations in street assignments. Dr. Thornton said the bus runs could be a little different, we will meet with the bus company, but he expected about a 2 -3% difference. The high school end time plays into this. Mrs. Beaulieu then said we are approving concept not street assignments and Dr. Thornton said she was correct. Mr. Wood asked if it is in our budget, what happens if it doesn't get funded? Dr. Thornton said even with funding that we think we are getting, he still needs to cut \$500,000. He is covering a lot with grants and added that Governor Chafee may add to education aid, but we do not know this for sure. Priorities need to happen. Mrs. Sanzi asked if half day K would still be an option and Dr. Thornton said no it would not be an option. Everyone would attend full day K. Mrs. Sanzi then asked if the 40% of North Cumberland folks that currently do not utilize half day K came back, would we have room for them all. Dr. Thornton said yes we have some room, but if all 40% came back we would need to rent portable classrooms at some of the schools. Mr. Mutter commented on Mr. Wood's comments – he said the bar was high, we have assurance, this is the year, math intervention is needed, and we are placing our trust in Dr. Thornton to get all of these things done – full day K is a necessity – our town finance director has advised us that

he will get us there. He went on to say that he is grateful and appreciates the Mayor making assurances. Mr. Mutter said that the SC could review the budget numbers for 10-15 minutes and then they could vote. Mr. Wood made a motion to amend the agenda, Mr. Rotella said they needed to amend the agenda if they had a specific concern and wanted to flip flop “G” and “H” items on the agenda. Mr. Mutter then asked Dr. Thornton for the five-minute version of the budget. Dr. Thornton reviewed some numbers – we are getting \$1.1m from the state but this gets washed out by pensions – he then listed quite a few items that are listed in the budget and went over what we get locally. Mr. Mutter said that the full day K is just once piece of the budget. Mr. Prignano noted that with half day K we only get half the money from the state – eventually we could get \$500,000 for full day K students – he does not see how we could not do this. Mrs. Beaulieu made a motion to approve full day K/redistricting for next school year, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 7-0. Mr. Mutter said that he appreciated everyone conducting themselves so well, he said he knew this created lots of anxiety but everyone was great. He appreciated all the work that everyone did on this and wanted to publicly thank everyone!

H. FY2013 Budget Workshop – Mr. Prignano reviewed the documents that the SC had been given. Schools, departments every line item that the School department appropriates dollars to is in this packet. He went on to say that any questions that the SC had could be directed to him and Dr. Thornton, via email. They plan on scheduling more budget meetings in the future. Dr. Thornton went over some

budget highlights, full day K, math intervention, Gemsnet and then some reductions such as library books, .8 nurse at the high school, middle school and freshmen sports. Mr. Mutter said the Fiscal Management Subcommittee would be reviewing the budget and there would be additional SC meetings as well. Also, all of this information is posted on the website for all to review.

Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Rotella had the following personnel recommendations:

Resignation

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the resignation of Bonnie Drezek, Girls' Softball Coach, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 2/15/2012. (Budgeted)

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Robert Crozier, Girls' Basketball Head Coach, at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 3/9/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Jenna George, Girls' Softball Coach, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 3/9/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of James Dickinson, Boys' Head Golf Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 3/9/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Matthew Grochowski, Boys' Baseball Assistant Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 3/9/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Matthew Smalley, Boys' Lacrosse Assistant Coach, at Cumberland High School, effective 3/9/2012. (Budgeted)

Leaves of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Michelle Cappello, Reading Teacher, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 4/23/2012 with a return date of 6/4/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Unpaid Parental Leave of Lisa Albert, Guidance Counselor, at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective for the 2012-2013 school year. (Budgeted)

Mr. Pedro made a motion to approve as outlined by Mr. Rotella, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

Rep. McLaughlin wanted to update the SC on the following: the senate is seeking funding for full day K – hoping to get some funding, bill on healthcare – Rollover Bill – which is basically if you do not use your allotment, it can be rolled over to next year to use.

Mr. Mutter noted that no SC members receive healthcare from this district.

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) – Mrs. Beaulieu stated that this decision is about balance, to make Cumberland more attractive, good place to start, we have confidence in our administration for the funding. She thanked the SC for their votes. Mr. Pedro had a concern with music at the high school – 1.3 fte could be a problem – he is worried about losing the teacher that teaches here and finding someone part time. Mr. Gibbons is excited about full day K and redistricting, math intervention is great – he is concerned about cutting the sports programs and just wanted to mention that Lacrosse is an upcoming sport and just because it was the last one in should not mean that it is the first one out. He would like Dr. Thornton to look at the program.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session

Mr. Mutter stated that there would be no Executive Session tonight.

Agenda Item 15: Adjournment

Mr. Pedro made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A Jackvony